

31 December 1969

PSYCHIATRIC STAFF PROGRAM CALL, FY 1972-1976

Introduction

The Psychiatric Staff has made progress in its various programs, generally. The availability of the Senior Psychiatric Panel to meet regularly with the Psychiatric Staff, as well as the addition of a fourth member who brings particular interest in the problems of aging, has been of use. The Staff continues to develop more productive ways of relating to each panelist individually. In the formal Panel meetings, there has been continuing interest in the complex role of a psychiatrist in the Agency setting, relating as he does to Management on the one hand, and to the individual employee on the other. Intricate though these relations may be, the basic fact has emerged that sensitive and personal information developed in the course of evaluation by the Psychiatric Staff members can be handled with the greatest discretion and tact, yet with the recognition that information so gained is probably never privileged in the same sense that knowledge gained by a physician from a private patient would be. In the course of FY 1972-1976, the use of the Panel is expected to continue along the lines developed to this point, that is to say panelists will continue to be utilized by Staff members in the areas of their mutual interest and the formal Panel meetings will continue to be devoted to topics of general Psychiatric Staff interest. Some variation in the format of the meetings may be expected from time to time. Thus, additional expenses are not foreseen. As an alternative, it is possible to consider doing away with the Panel, at the expense of the professional stimulation which it provides--a most undesirable alternative.